

/ / ** FLASH **

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 3647
RUEHBL/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FLASH 0994
RUEHJI/AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE 6669
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE 0612
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE 8514
INFO RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 8707
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 5861
BT
S E C R E T DAMASCUS 06898

EXDIS

FOR MCFARLANE/FAIRBANKS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MARR, MOPS, SY, LE, IS, US, XF
SUBJECT: MCFARLANE/FAIRBANKS MISSION: CONTACT WITH
- JUMBLATT IN DAMASCUS

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AT 1845 LOCAL ON SEPTEMBER 2, I MET WITH JUMBLATT

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FOR ONE HOUR AT THE RESIDENCE. MRS. JUMBLATT ACCOMPANIED HIM. HE HAD JUST COME FROM MEETING WITH PRINCE BANDAR AND WAS ON HIS WAY TO BLOUDAN TO MEET WITH SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM. JUMBLATT HAD SPENT MOST OF DAY CONFERRING WITH KARAMI IN TRIPOLI AND FRANJIEH IN EH DEN.

3. MEETING WITH GEMAYEL: JUMBLATT SAID THAT HE AND KARAMI ARE WILLING TO MEET WITH GEMAYEL IF GEMAYEL IS ALONE. FRANJIEH IS RELUCTANT TO JOIN THIS MEETING, BUT JUMBLATT THINKS HE CAN BE BROUGHT ALONG. JUMBLATT THINKS NABIH BERRI WILL ALSO JOIN MEETING. GEMAYEL HAS PROPOSED BRINGING WITH HIM HIS FATHER SHAIKH PIERRE GEMAYEL AND SAAB SALAM. JUMBLATT SAYS THAT HIS GROUP IS PRESSING FOR MEETING WITH AMIN ALONE. ACCORDING JUMBLATT, THIS PROPOSAL IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY GEMAYEL. ON SYRIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD SUCH A MEETING, JUMBLATT SAID HE JUST DIDN'T KNOW. (COMMENT: WE CAN ASSUME THAT HE WILL BE TRYING THIS OUT ON KHADDAM AT ABOUT THIS TIME. VENUE OF POSSIBLE MEETING NOT CLEAR. END COMMENT.)

4. LAF TAKE-OVER OF EAST BEIRUT: I SHOWED JUMBLATT BEIRUT RADIO REPORTS ABOUT DEPLOYMENT OF LAF IN ALL OF BEIRUT. HE SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THESE REPORTS BUT WOULD RESERVE HIS JUDGMENT UNTIL HE COULD ASCERTAIN WHETHER THIS WAS THE REAL THING. IF IT WERE, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WOULD BE A FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT.

5. ROLE OF U.S. MARINES: I TOLD JUMBLATT I HAD SEEN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENTS ALLEGING U.S. MARINES HAD PARTICIPATED IN LAF OPERATIONS IN WEST BEIRUT AND WARNING AGAINST THEIR FURTHER INVOLVEMENT. I SAID THESE REPORTS WERE TOTALLY FALSE. ONLY MARINE ACTION HAD BEEN TO DEFEND THEMSELVES, AND THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. JUMBLATT ASKED WHETHER U.S. MILITARY ADVISERS HAD BEEN WITH LAF, AND I SAID, "NO, NONE." JUMBLATT ASKED ABOUT REPORTS THAT TWO THOUSAND MORE MARINES WERE BEING SENT TO BEIRUT. I SAID THAT THESE REPORTS WERE TRUE, AND THIS FORCE WOULD PROVIDE OFFSHORE RESERVE FOR MARINES ALREADY ONSHORE. JUMBLATT ASKED IF THESE

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MARINES WOULD BE LANDED. I REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD BE LANDED IF SITUATION AROSE THAT REQUIRED THEM TO PROTECT MARINES ALREADY IN POSITION. JUMBLATT SAID THAT IF FIGHTING STARTED BETWEEN LAF AND DRUZE IN KHALDE AREA, IT COULD SPILL OVER ONTO MARINES WHO WERE VERY CLOSE TO LAF POSITIONS THERE. I REITERATED THAT MARINES WOULD RETURN FIRE IF FIRED UPON.

6. MASSACRE OF CHRISTIANS IN METN AND REPORTED ATTACK ON JUMBLATT HOUSE IN BEIRUT: JUMBLATT CONFIRMED DRUZE KILLINGS OF CHRISTIANS IN BMARYAM. HE EXPRESSED DEEP REGRET AND EMPHASIZED THIS AS EXAMPLE OF EXTREME TENSION BETWEEN DRUZE AND CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES, PARTICULARLY IN SMALL AND OUT-OF-THE-WAY VILLAGES. HE SAID HE HAD JUST BEEN ON THE PHONE TO SYRIAN CHIEF OF STAFF SHIHABI TO URGE SYRIANS IN THIS AREA TO CLAMP DOWN ON VILLAGERS AND TO TRY TO ARREST PERPETRATORS OF THESE KILLINGS, AND SHIHABI HAD AGREED TO ASSIST. I URGED JUMBLATT TO INSTRUCT HIS FOLLOWERS TO REFRAIN FROM THESE VIOLENT ACTS AND TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT CONDEMNING THIS MASSACRE. JUMBLATT REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT IN TOTAL CONTROL, PARTICULARLY IN THESE SMALLER VILLAGES, BUT HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD AND CONSIDER MAKING PUBLIC DENUNCIATION. RE HIS HOUSE IN MUSAYTBAH, HE SAID THAT TWO SHOTS HAD BEEN FIRED AND ONE PERSON HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY LAF FORCES, BUT THAT THIS PERSON HAD BEEN RELEASED AND LAF HAD APOLOGIZED FOR THIS INCIDENT. JUMBLATT SAID THAT BMARYAM MASSACRE WAS PROBABLY RESULT OF REPORTS OF ASSAULT ON HIS BEIRUT HOUSE.

7. BANDAR: BANDAR TOLD JUMBLATT THAT HE HAD MET WITH ASSAD AND KHADDAM AND HAD FOUND ASSAD MUCH HARDER LINE

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ON THE AGREEMENT THAN KHADDAM. (COMMENT: THIS IS INTERESTING, IF NOT ENCOURAGING. END COMMENT.) JUMBLATT DIDN'T HAVE MUCH ELSE TO SAY ABOUT HIS CONVERSATION WITH BANDAR, SAVE THAT THE SAUDIS WANTED TO PLAY A ROLE.

8. GHANDOUR: JUMBLATT SAID THAT GHANDOUR WAS COMING TO DAMASCUS TOMORROW, SEPTEMBER 3, TO SEE HIM.

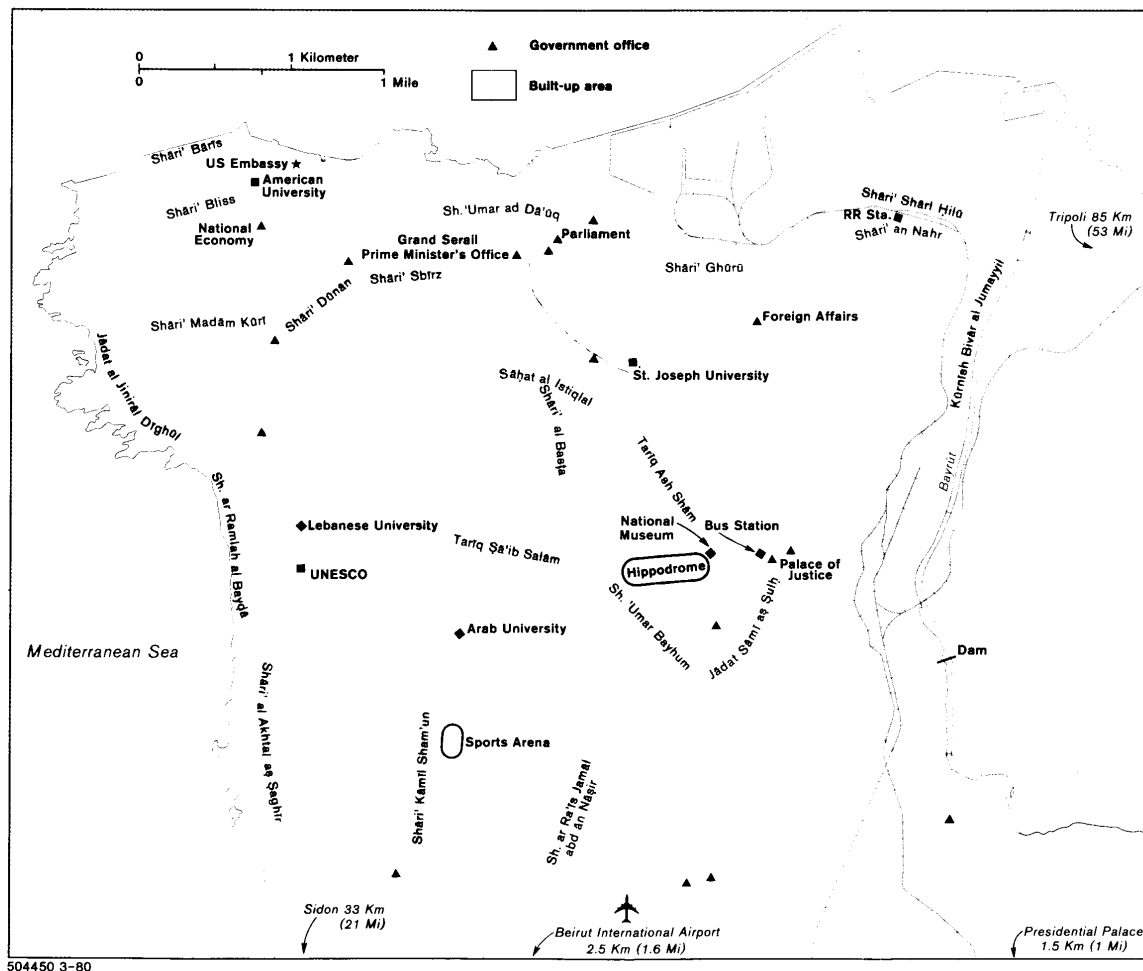
9. MOOD: JUMBLATT WAS, AS HE USUALLY HAS BEEN IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH ME, MATTER-OF-FACT AND UNEXCITED. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TIME WAS SHORT BEFORE ISRAELI REDEPLOYMENT BEGINS, BUT GAVE APPEARANCE OF HAVING SOME HOPE THAT THE MEETING WITH GEMAYEL COULD BE ARRANGED. HE SHOWED A WILLINGNESS TO GO TO SUCH A MEETING TO FIND OUT WHAT GEMAYEL HAD TO OFFER AND THIS IS A CHANGE FROM HIS PREVIOUS POSITION. HE WAS UNSURE HOW THE SYRIANS WOULD REACT TO ALL OF THIS. I OFFERED HIM ANY AND ALL ASSISTANCE IN FURTHERING CAUSE OF LEBANESE RECONCILIATION AND HE SAID HE WOULD STAY IN TOUCH.

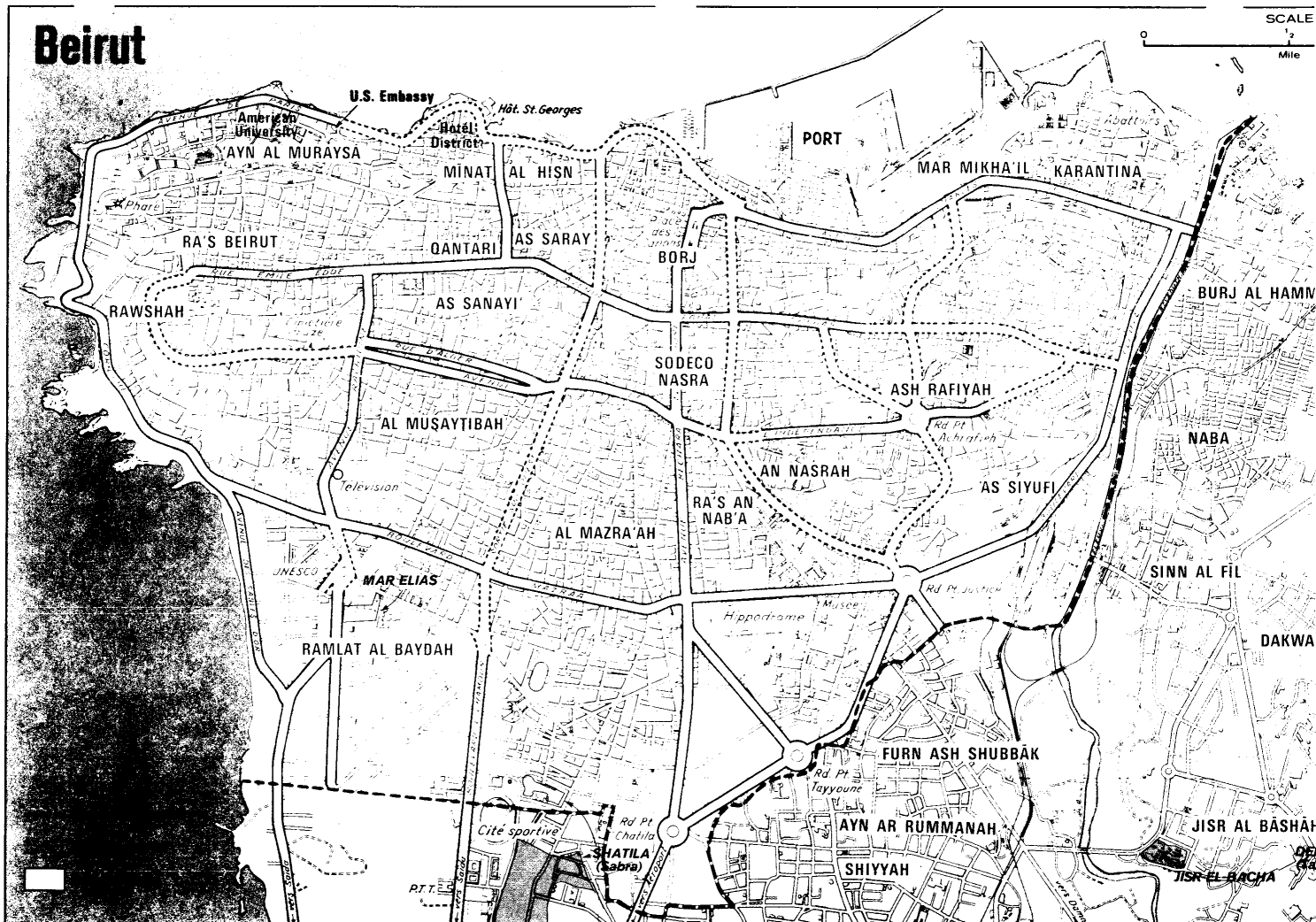
10. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. PAGANELLI

END OF MESSAGE

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